



## **ALBANIA**

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **on recent developments regarding research and innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkans (Period: October 2017 – June 2018)<sup>1</sup>**

#### **1 Policy actions and legislative initiatives (legal and strategic framework)**

During the period October 2017-June 2018 has continued the work to complete the last legal and documents of scientific research according to Law 80/2015 of 22.07.2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania".

On 1 of December 2017, by Decision of Council of Ministers No. 710, was approved the "National Strategy of Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022".

The National Strategy of Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022 is in the beginning of its implementation. It is designed and supported on the principles of ERA –European Research Area

The Action Plan define important tasks for implementation related to the National Strategy of Scientific Research, Technology and Innovation 2017-2022 and aim to concentrate on three major pillars designated to encompass the EU's Research and Innovation Program model H2020.

Actions document and target the intended goals:

Excellence in Science (supporting and strengthening the human capacities of research infrastructure in the country);

The role of science in business development and their interaction;

Providing solutions for social, environmental, health, public security, social cohesion and cultural identity challenges by promoting the Open Society-related approach to the citizen and the community.

By the Executive Order of Ministry of Education , Sport and Youth Nr 121 dated 16.04.2018 is established the Working Group on Smart Specialization Strategy which has recently approved the Road Map and is on-going with TAIEX experts to define criteria how to map economic, scientific and innovation potential

Also are approved the following Decision of Council of Minister( DCM) related to research secoto

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<sup>1</sup> The last Steering Platform was held in Belgrade on September 27-28, 2017. All related information is also available online here: <https://wbc-rti.info/object/event/16372> (including links to the conclusions and minutes).



DCM No. 75, dated 12.02.2018 On the Approval of the Financing Model of Public Institutions of Higher Education and Scientific Research

DCM No. 112, dated 23.02.2018 On determining the criteria for obtaining the "doctor" scientific degree and the state standards for obtaining academic titles "associate professor" and "professor"

DCM No. 165 dated 21.03.2018 For the methodology of the evaluation process of the research activity of the basic units at the higher education institutions

At the framework of implementation of DCM No. 165 dated 21.03.2018 For the methodology of the evaluation process of the research activity of the basic units at the higher education institutions, NASRI is on –going process with Albanian Academic Network – RASH to design the modules of on-line platform ACRIIS- Albania Current Research Information System

NASRI is the coordinator of the Albanian Euraxess Network. In this context, NASRI promoted the European Charter for Researchers, the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers through H2020 and Euraxess Info Days. Four workshops have been organized with public and non-public universities: Albanian University, Polis University, University of Medicine and Logo University.

Through the TOP III-Euraxess project, with the researchers of public and private University on 5 of October 2017 was organised an event on EURAXESS Promotion and EURAXESS Network services.

New Euraxess albania portal is upgraded and the Euraxess Contact Points is updated

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth - (former Ministry of Education and Sports) of the Republic of Albania and the National Research Center -- CNR, signed on 19.05.2017, the Agreement and the Co-operation Program. In this context, the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation - NASRI, as executive agency, referred as such also in the document, "Cooperation Program", signed on 19.05.2017, is entitled to carry out the process of announcing calls for bilateral scientific cooperation projects, inviting the academic staff of public and non-public institutions of higher education and scientific research in the Republic of Albania, to submit their project proposals.

The opening of this call aimed at promoting academic mobility between Albanian and Italian researchers, pointing at exchanging experiences and strengthening co-operation for long-term projects within ERASMUS +, or HORIZON 2020.

The projects have been submitted to the National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation - NASRI until 29 September 2017.

The research fields that are covered in these project proposals are as follows:

- Social and Albanological Science
- Information Technology and Technology
- Agriculture, Food and Biotechnology
- Water and Energy



- Biodiversity and Environment
- Health care
- Materials

Upon completion of the application and prior review of the submitted proposals, it was noted that: The total number of project proposals submitted is 27. Out of 27 project proposals submitted, 3 are from private higher education institutions and 24 from public higher education institutions;

- 9- Projects come from the field of "Biodiversity and the Environment";
- 6 - Projects come in the field of "Agriculture, Food and Biotechnology";
- 4- Projects come in the field of "Social and Albanological Sciences";
- 3 - Projects come to the field of "Water and Energy";
- 3- Projects come in the field of "Materials";
- 2 - Projects come in the field of "Information Systems and Technology";
- Projects come in the field of "Health

Out of the 27 projects only 10 projects will be funded from the state budget of the Ministry of Education and Sports and Youth. The allocated fund to NASRI from the MoESY, is foreseen to be around 5 thousands Euro per project for two years period.

On 8 April 2018 was launched the Second Call for Proposals for Scientific Cooperation Bilateral Projects 2019-2020 between Albania and Austria

NASRI initiated and completed the process of full membership of Albania in COST Programme by April 2018

By the end of May 2018 is expected to open the calls for National Research and Development Projects

- 2 Development of international cooperation and actions on integration into ERA**
- 3 Important events, meetings, training activities, studies etc.**
- 4 Outlook and perspectives**
- 5 Other relevant information related to Research and Innovation cooperation in/with Western Balkan economies)**